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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------063106 262330Z /61
R 262311Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0695
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13627

EXDIS

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: LA, FR
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO EMBASSY BY A "LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE"

1. THREE INDIVIDUALS (PROFESSOR JOSE TOLO BLASCO, SPANISH, "DR. GENERAL" GUILIANO MIATTI-KONIGSBERG AND "COLONEL" FLAVIO MOLETTA - CONTESSA, BOTH ITALIAN) CALLED AT EMBASSY WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE ON APRIL 26 AND ANNOUNCED THEMSELVES AS EMISSARIES OF A NEWLY-FORMED "GOUVERNEMENT ROYAL DU LAOS LIBRE." THREE CARRIED DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN THE NAME OF KING SRI SAVANG VATTHANA, AND SIGNED BY VONGKOTRATTANA AMPHORN SAVAD, "MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS," ACCREDITING THEM AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS "GOVERNMENT." THEY ALSO PROVIDED US WITH A LIST (TRANSMITTED BELOW) OF MEMBERS OF "GOVERNMENT."

2. THREE REPRESENTATIVES SAID PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT WAS TO SEEK US SUPPORT FOR AN EFFORT TO EXPAND AND ACTIVATE EXISTING GUERILLA NETWORK IN LAOS. SPOKESMAN FOR THREE (TOLO BLASCO) SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL FAC-
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TIONS WITHIN THE LAOTIAN EXILE "GOVERNMENT," WITH SOME FAVORING COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, SOME WITH US, AND A FEW PRO-CHINESE. HOWEVER, THEY ALL RECOGNIZED THAT US "ACQUIESCENCE" WAS REQUIRED FOR ANY SUCCESS. HE ADDED THAT SHOULD US REACTION BE FAVORABLE, LAOTIANS THEMSELVES WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US, BUT THAT THEY PREFERRED THAT INITIAN CONTACT BE MADE BY EUROPEANS.

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3. WHILE THREE REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY WHAT THEIR OWN ROLE WAS, IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE MERCENARIES AND WOULD SUPPORT GUERILLA EFFORT IN LAOS. HOWEVER, THREE WERE RELUCTANT TO SAY VERY MUCH, AND REFUSED TO SAY EVEN WHERE "GOVERNMENT IN EXILE" WAS ACTUALLY LOCATED. WE REACTED NEGATIVELY, SAYING US HAD NO INTEREST IN SUPPORTING GUERILLA MOVEMENTS IN INDOCHINA, BUT SAID WE WOULD REPORT THEIR DEMARCHE.

4. SFR IS CHECKING ON LAOTIAN GROUP AND THREE EMISSARIES THROUGH ITS CONTACTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON DEALING WITH THIS GROUP.

5. LIST OF MEMBERS OF "VOUVERNEMENT ROYAL DU LAOS LIBRE" (GRL), AS PROVIDED BY EMISSARIES, IS AS FOLLOWS (LIST IS DATED PERPIGNAN, APRIL 20, 1978):

PRIME MINISTER - PHAGNA PHONI SANANIKONE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DEPUTY FROM THE PROVINCE OF VIENTIANE.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - SISOUK NACHMPASSAK, FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUVANNA PHOUMA.

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MINISTER OF FINANCE - PHAGNA HGUH SANANIKONE, FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - AMPHORNSAVAD S. VONGKOTRATTANA, FORMER DEPUTY FROM THE PROVINCE OF LUANG PRABANG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION, CIVIL ENGINEER FOR CONSTRUCTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 262311Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0696
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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MINISTER OF INTERIOR - KHAMSING SANANIKONE, FORMER DEPUTY FROM THE PROVINCE OF VIENTIANE.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE - KOU PRASITH ABHAY, /ORMER ASSISTANT TO THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ROYAL LAOTIAN FORCES.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE - AMKHA SOUKHAVONG, LIEUTENANT GENERAL, FORMER DEPUTY FROM THE PROVINCE OF BORIKHANE.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH - PHAGNA KHAMLECK VILAY, FORMER MEMBER OF THE KING'S COUNCIL.

MINISTER OF INFORMATION - HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, TIAO KHAMHING, FORMER LAOTIAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION - DOCTOR KHAMSAY SOUKHAVONG, PROVISEUR OF THE LYCEE OF VIENTIANE.

MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY AND OF RECONSTRUCTION - PHAGNA HOUMPHANH SAIGNASITH, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ECONOMY.
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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